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SRI S. RAMAKRISHNIAH :—" May I know if the Hon. Minister is aware of reports in certain newspapers that the presidents of certain district boards and Commissioners of some municipalities took away ballot papers from the teachers working under their management on pain of severe punishment and handed over the same to their favoured candidates? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I had not the advantage of looking into those newspapers."

SRI K. BHASHYAM :—" I would like to say a word by way of personal explanation with regard to certain observations that fell from the hon. Member Sri Purushothama Mudaliar. In one of my speeches, I only said that according to the postal system of voting, there was a good deal of irregularity but I never said that there was corruption or anything like that."

Special concessions to political sufferers.

* 26 *Q.*—SRI S. B. ADITYAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that special concessions were shown to political sufferers in granting permits for purchase or sale of iron and steel;

(*b*) if so, what the nature of the concessions is and when did the concessions come into force; and

(*c*) how many permits for iron and steel quota were granted to political sufferers during 1948–49, 1949–50, 1950–51 and 1951–52?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (*a*) & (*b*) In 1948 a few political sufferers were exempted from the condition that they should have been in the trade prior to 1946. The concession came into force from 1949–50.

" (*c*) A statement showing the details indicating the categories and the quantities issued from 1949–50 to June 1952 is laid on the table of the House."

4-15 p.m. SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether it was also a condition that they should continue to belong to the Congress Party before they qualify themselves for these special permits? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I do not think so, Sir. The records do not show any such thing."

SRI V. GURUNANDAN ROW :—" How many permits were given to others including ex-military men? "

* Printed as Appendix on pages 236–239 infra.

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THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" No such permits were granted during 1948–49. Permits were given in the following years as shown below :—

During 1949–50—5.

During 1950–51—37.

During 1951–52—56.

After 31st March 1952—22.

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" May I know wether political sufferers who were granted assignment of lands were also given these iron and steel permits? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I am not aware of any such instance. If the hon. Member gives me the name of the persons, I shall certainly tell the House if they were given."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Was there anything in the rules preventing a person who has been assigned lands also being given a permit under this scheme? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I do not know what the hon. Member means. But so far as the permit for iron and steel was concerned, there was no such condition."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" May I know whether there is any change of policy with regard to the granting of permits for iron and steel to political sufferers, just as in the case of granting assignment of lands? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" At present the policy is definite that persons in the business for some years only will be given permits. It is not intended to cancel permits enjoyed for two or three years already."

SRI V. GURUNANDAN ROW :—" Is there any other permit of this kind in respect of any other controlled material given to political sufferers? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I should like to have notice of that question."

Madras Children's Bill.

* 27 *Q.*—MRS. M. N. CLUBWALA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state whether a Madras Children's Bill is under preparation and if so, whether the Government have any proposal to appoint a Committee of members, who are connected with this work, for its consideration before its presentation to the Legislature?

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAYAR :—" The Madras Children's Bill, 1950, was prepared and published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* for the purpose of eliciting opinion. The Government had already appointed a Committee to consider in detail the provisions of this Bill and the report of the Committee is under consideration."